

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 PM-03 SP-02 NSC-05 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-02 USIA-06 /063 W

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P 301725Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1579

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

CINCLANT PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 553

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS PO

SUBJ: NATO EXERCISE "LOCKED GATE"

SUMMARY: NATO EXERCISE "LOCKED GATE" SCHEDULED  
FEB 1-7 IN AND NEAR PORTUGAL. WE HAVE EXAMINED  
EXERCISE AND RELATED EVENTS IN LIGHT OF TENSE POLITICAL  
SITUATION. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS EXERCISE PROCEED AS SCHEDULED,  
AND WILL CONTINUE MONITOR SITUATION CLOSELY. END SUMMARY.

1. NATO (IBERLANT) EXERCISE "LOCKED GATE" SCHEDULED  
FEBRUARY 1-7. EXERCISE PLANNED YEAR AGO WITH 22 SHIPS  
TAKING PART, INCLUDING 7 US; 6 UK; 5 FRENCH; 2 DUTCH;  
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1 CANADIAN; AND 1 PORTUGUESE. US CARRIER SARATOGA

LARGEST SHIP IN EXERCISE.

2. IN LIGHT OF TENSE POLITICAL SITUATION NOW EXISTING IN PORTUGAL THREE ASPECTS OF EXERCISE HAVE COME UNDER THIS MISSION'S SCRUTINY: OVERALL QUESTION OF HOLDING MAJOR EXERCISE IN OR NEAR PORTUGAL AT THIS TIME; POSSIBLE SHORE LEAVE INCIDENTS; USE OF PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE GUNNERY RANGE BY SARATOGA AIRCRAFT.

3. LAST SUMMER, IN COURSE OF DEVELOPING PLANS FOR EXERCISE, U.S. COMIBERLANT PERSONNEL WORKED OUT ARRANGEMENT WITH PORTUGUESE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WHEREBY USN AIRCRAFT FROM CARRIER SARATOGA WOULD BE PERMITTED TO FLY TRAINING FLIGHTS USING PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE TARGET RANGE SOUTHEAST OF LISBON. THESE TRAINING FLIGHTS NOT RPT NOT PART OF NATO EXERCISE. TRAINING FLIGHTS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN LINKED BY PORTUGUESE PRESS TO EXERCISE.

4. SARATOGA TRAINING TO CONSIST OF FOLLOWING:

- FEB 1-2: JETS FLY OVER PORTUGAL ON OPERATIONAL FLIGHTS AT MINIMUM ALTITUDE OF 3000 FEET ON FLIGHT PLANS APPROVED BY PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES.
- FEB 3-6: GUNNERY TRAINING FLIGHTS SCHEDULED OVER PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE TARGET RANGE AT ALCOCHETE, SOUTHEAST OF LISBON. PRACTICE AMMUNITION WILL BE DROPPED. NO LIVE AMMO WILL BE USED. THERE WILL BE U.S. RANGE SAFETY OFFICER. IF NO U.S. RANGE OFFICER PRESENT, NO MISSION MAY BE FLOWN.
- A MAXIMUM OF SIX MISSIONS PER DAY WILL BE FLOWN; TWO AIRCRAFT PER MISSION.

5. POPULAR SOCIALIST FRONT (FSP) ISSUED PRESS COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNING NATO EXERCISE WHICH WAS REPORTED BY LISBON MORNING DAILY O SECULO JAN 29. FSP CALLED EXERCISE AND TRAINING FLIGHTS "A PROVOCATIVE ACTION AGAINST PORTUGUESE PEOPLE... AND, GIVEN THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION, VERY WORRISOME". ALL LISBON AFTERNOON DAILIES JAN 29 CARRIED EXCERPTS OF FSP COMMUNIQUE. ONE STORY ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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CLAIMED THAT 11,000 TROOPS WOULD BE DISEMBARKING IN PORTUGAL. (THIS REFERS TO TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ABOARD ALL EXERCISE SHIPS WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO VISIT LISBON AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE EXERCISE).

6. COMIBERLANT DEPUTY COMMANDER, PORTUGUESE COMMODORE HENRIQUE DE NORONHA, REACTED TO FSP COMMUNIQUE WITH STATEMENT WHICH REPORTED IN DIARIO DE NOTICIAS AND OTHER

PAPERS ON JAN 30, GIVING COMPLETE DETAILS OF NATO EXERCISE AND CONFIRMING THAT AIRCRAFT FROM SARATOGA WILL BE FLYING TRAINING MISSIONS INVOLVING SIMULATED FIRING. NORONHA SAID "TRAINING WAS PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO BY BOTH US AND PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENTS". DIARIO DE NOTICIAS SAID THAT IT IS PART OF NATO EXERCISE. NORONHA ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ONLY DISEMBARKATION WOULD BE NORMAL SHORE LEAVE OF SHIPS' COMPANY.

7. GOP HAS NOT REACTED TO THIS LEFTIST ATTEMPT TO STIR UP PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST NATO EXERCISE. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES IS UNDER SOME PRESSURE FROM LEFT AND RIGHT TO CANCEL EXERCISE.

8. COMMENT: GOP HAS STATED REPEATEDLY THAT IT WILL ADHERE TO ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND SPECIFICALLY TO NATO COMMITMENTS. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR WE ARE ATTENTIVE TO GOP CONCERNS BUT WE DOUBT THAT GOP WOULD MAKE REQUEST TO CANCEL EXERCISE DESPITE THE PRESSURE IT MAY BE UNDER FROM LEFT WING ELEMENTS. RESPONDING TO QUESTION AT JAN 30 PRESS CONFERENCE, MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ALVES SAID EXERCISE HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR TWO YEARS AND AFM COUNCIL OF 20 HAD NOT CONSIDERED CALLING IT OFF.

9. ON QUESTION OF SHORE LEAVE, WE WILL BE WATCHING SITUATION CLOSELY AND LOOKING FOR POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATIONS OR PLANNED PROVOCATIONS AGAINST USN PERSONNEL. TO DATE, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH ACTIVITIES.

10. QUESTION OF TRAINING FLIGHTS FROM SARATOGA IS A VERY DELICATE ISSUE. MY PRESENT VIEW, WHICH COULD CHANGE AS SITUATION EVOLVES, IS THAT THEY SHOULD CONTINUE DESPITE DANGER  
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THAT THEY WILL BE EXPLOITED BY LEFTISTS.  
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